



The Prowler

the news of the week
les nouvelles de la semaine



September 7, 2022

250-567-2267

<http://wlm.sd91.bc.ca>

Issue# 1

Hadi, Bonjour and Hello,

Welcome back! It was just amazing to see everyone yesterday.

I'd like to say a special welcome to our new students and families including all our many, many new Kindergarten students. We are so excited to welcome new teachers including Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Funk, Mrs. Good and Ms. Tait. We are also happy to let you know that Mrs. van den Berg, Ms. Slatten and Mme Haslam are joining our amazing Support Staff team. We still have a few postings out, so our McLeod adult team is going to get even bigger.

We love welcoming new people to our McLeod family and this year we have welcomed A LOT of new students. We have had so many new registrations that there is a good possibility that we will need to make changes to our classes over the next few weeks. Our current classes are tentative. We will keep communicating as we know more. Thank you for all your support and love for our incredible school.

We are thrilled that we are able to host our Open House/Ice Cream Social this year on Thursday, September 15th from 6:00 to 7:30. It's been a few years and we can't wait to welcome you back! After visiting the classroom, we invite you and your family to our gym where you can all enjoy an ice cream sundae and meet other McLeod families. We'd like to thank our PAC for hosting this event. If you can offer a bit of extra assistance to help us serve ice cream please let me know as soon as possible. At 7:00 our PAC will be having their first meeting of the year in our TLC. We invite all parents to come out and join us.

There is nothing more important to us than keeping our McLeod family safe. For this reason, McLeod will be a NUT FREE school again this year. It is essential that we do our best to keep our students and staff with life-threatening allergies as safe as possible. No peanuts, Brazil nuts or hazelnuts (ie – Nutella) will be permitted in our building. If a student brings any food to school containing these ingredients, the item will be returned home to you. We also work with Public Health to ensure our staff are trained in the necessary procedures in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. THANK YOU for your kindness and caring as we look after our kids and adults.

McLeod is also a scent free environment. Many items such as perfumes, creams, deodorants, hair products and essential oils can result in strong reactions for our students and staff who have scent sensitivities or allergies. Thank you for helping to keep everyone comfortable by keeping scents out of our school.

Each year we have a theme for the year. Last year our theme is WEB – Where Everybody Belongs. For 2022-2023 we are going to focus on, ME, YOU and US!

This newsletter includes LOTS of information, and we hope you will take the time to check it all out. Please have a look at our Technology Policy and Permission, a brochure about the SD91 Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process and a Parent Guide to Emergency Planning. You will also find a registration verification form. Please read it over and make any changes about information for us. It is especially important this year that we have the correct contact information including emergency contact info. At the end of the form, you will also find a list of items to double check as well. Please return the Technology and Verification pages to your child's teacher as soon as possible. You can find more information like our McLeod Code of Conduct in the front section of your child's agenda, and I encourage you to take the time to read it through.

It is our goal to work together with you and the kids to help our McLeod students become adults who can take on the world. Please feel free to contact the school if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Proud to be McLeod

Ms. L. Hart

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

COMING SOON:

Sept 12 : Assembly

Sept 15: Ice Cream Social—Open House @ 7PM

Sept 16: Fun Day

Sept 20: Picture Day

Sept 22: Crazy Hair Day

Sept 23: District Planning Day

No School

Sept 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

No School

McLEOD IS

NOT FREE.



Thanks for
keeping our
McLeod
family safe.

No peanuts, Brazil nuts and hazelnuts
(including peanut butter and Nutella)
PLEASE.



CONTACTING ME

I really do like to be able to contact parents by text when needed. I would love to have your contact info in my phone. Please send me a text at 250-567-8539 so I can add you to my contacts.

~Ms. Hart



Thank you for Keeping
McLeod a scent free
(including essential oils).

We appreciate your support for
our students and staff with
sensitivities or allergies.

**PARKING
LOT**



SAFETY



Please **DO NOT** use the staff parking lot (the lot by the EBUS entrance) to drop off or pick-up students. Students **MUST NOT** be walking through this parking lot at any time. Drop off angle parking is available on Damon Square (behind the strip mall). Thank you for your help to keep our kids safe. Students and adults **MUST NOT** be running between busses across Victoria St. Please use the crosswalk.

W.L. McLeod Strong Start

A free program here at our school for children with their caregivers. Snack is provided.

Our program runs every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 12pm.

And an afternoon/evening class every Wednesday 3:30pm to 6:30pm!

Check out our Facebook page "W.L. McLeod Strong Start" for updates and for the weekly sign-up!

Please contact our program facilitator Sarah Meads at smeads@sd91.bc.ca





Let's all use our WITS at home and at school.



We are very proud that we offer additional support and connection for students of Indigenous ancestry at our school. In BC schools, students/families can self-identify as being of Aboriginal ancestry. There is no paperwork or "proof" required. Please contact



Picture Day

Sept 20th



CHECK OUT OUR McLEOD WEBSITE

WLM.SD91.BC.CA/

W.L. McLeod Elementary School

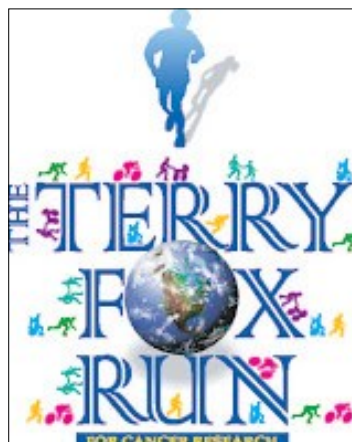
Daily Schedule

September 2022-2023

Welcome Bell/DPA	8:50 am
Recess	10:40 - 10:55 am
Lunch (eating)	12:15—12:30 pm
Lunch (outside)	12:30—1:03 pm
Dismissal	2:56 pm
Final Bell bus line up	3:13 pm

Our school goals are that our McLeod students will be:

1. Literate as evidenced by grade 3 students meeting grade level expectations in reading in PM Benchmarks/GB+.
2. Socially Responsible Citizens as monitored through the School Learning Survey.
3. Numerate as evidenced by grade 3 students meeting grade level expectations on the DNA.



On September 22nd our school will be participating in the Terry Fox Run.

Crazy Hair Day



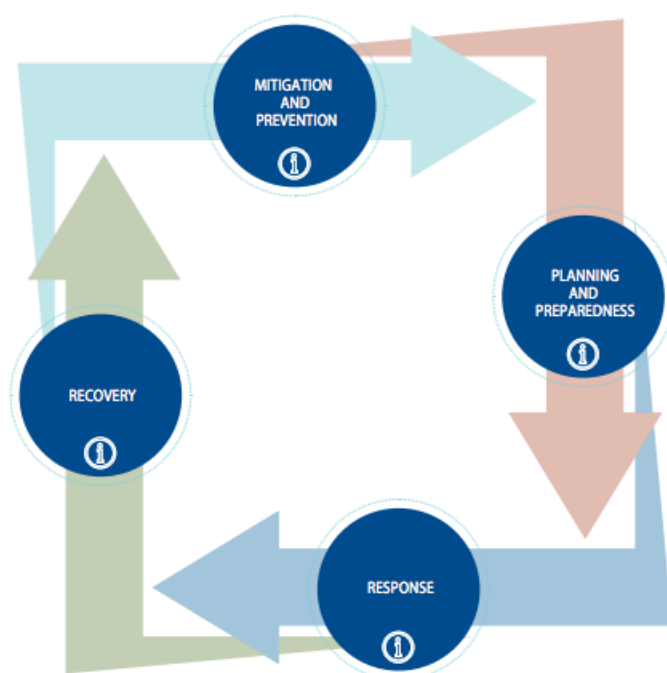
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our schools are considered one of the safest places in our communities, but emergencies can happen without warning. School District 91 has emergency preparedness plans in place in the event of a crisis situation.

During an emergency, the first priority is the safety of our students and staff. In order to provide an effective response to emergencies, School District 91 has developed an emergency preparedness plans based on provincial guidelines. The district plan serves as a template for individual schools to guide their own emergency preparedness manuals. All district and school plans are reviewed annually and always after an emergency occurs.

Emergencies are unpredictable. We usually have little warning that an event or series of events may cause a massive disruption in our lives and our communities. As one of the major areas in which people gather, schools are places where emergency preparedness is critically important to the well-being of students and employees and to the confidence that parents feel in entrusting their children to the care of educators in BC schools. With planning, training and practice, our employees will be better equipped to handle potential emergency situations.



ALL HAZARDS APPROACH

Rather than focus on and try to provide detail relating to a large number of different events, our planning takes an all-hazards approach.

All-Hazard: *Any incident or event, natural or human caused, that requires an organized response by a public, private, and/or governmental entity in order to protect life, public health and safety, values to be protected, and to minimize any disruption of governmental, social, and economic services.*

An all-hazards approach focuses on planning that involves a small number of responses that can be used in different types of emergencies.

School emergencies can be on a small scale, confined to one site, or on a larger scale, potentially impacting an entire school district or even many districts. A small, localized fire within a school, for example, will require a different response than a chemical leak from a train derailment that will affect a whole community.

Being ready to address different scenarios, in collaboration with first responders and relevant community agencies, takes considerable preparation on the part of staff. While district personnel are not necessarily trained as emergency services workers, they may be called upon to fulfil roles related to first aid, damage assessment, locating students and staff, and care and comfort for students for a period of time.

WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURS

Although your natural instincts in an emergency may be to come down to the school to safeguard your child, please understand that doing so could impede the response to the emergency. Going to the school may interfere with the emergency crews and school personnel efforts to deal with the situation. Extra vehicles and people on the site may make the task more difficult and possibly put more people at risk. If you arrive at the school in the middle of an emergency, please respect the protocol in progress. **When it is safe to do so parents/guardians will be informed on the procedures to pick up their children from school.**

During emergency, please do not call the school or your child's cell phone. We need to ensure our phone systems are not overloaded during times of crisis. Calling your child cell phone during an emergency can be putting them at higher risk by disclosing their location or drawing attention to them during a lockdown.

KEEPING INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY

During an emergency, it is unlikely you'll be able to reach the school by phone we will, however, make every effort to contact parents directly or by one of the methods described below when appropriate to do so. If parents subscribe to the School Messenger* notification service used by School District 91, messages will be sent out during emergencies. The school district will also keep parents informed by posting information on the district website, and through social media and local radio stations.

REUNITING WITH YOUR CHILD

We recognize that one emergency occurs parents will be worried and want to be reunited with their child as quickly as possible. To ensure everyone's safety, specific procedures have been established for releasing students after an emergency. The parent-child reunion area will be established after emergency. Depending on the type of emergency, this reunion area may or may not be at your regular school. Students will only be released to an individual designated as legal guardian or emergency contact. You may be required to show a valid identification when you pick up your child and sign a release form. If you are unable to pick up your child, he/she will be kept safe until alternate arrangements can be made.

**School Messenger is being implemented in all schools during the 2018-19 school year. Please check with your child's school to see if this system is activated and how you can receive information.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is emergency preparedness?

SD 91 has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans including the steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, including a parent communication plan and evacuation plan. These plans are reviewed on a regular basis.

2. How can I stay informed?

SD 91 will broadcast emergency messages on our notification service, Synrevoice and other media sites. General emergency messages, including early and late school openings and closings can be found on the school board's website. Emergency messages are also given to local radio stations. Parents are encouraged to use these media sources for updates. During an emergency, parents should refrain from calling the school as it overloads phone lines and interferes with the work staff must undertake during a threat to school safety.

3. How will my child's school handle an emergency situation?

All SD 91 schools have an emergency preparedness plan. While emergency plans are based on School Board procedures and Provincial guidelines, the specifics of each plan differ according to unique characteristics for each location. A response to an emergency will differ based on the specifics of that situation. The flexibility of the plan is key to the success of the response. All school plans are reviewed on a regular basis and input is encouraged from all education partners.

4. How can I see the Emergency Preparedness Plan from my child's school?

Please contact your child's school for a copy of their manual.

5. What is a "Lockdown?"

This response is used when there is an immediate and imminent threat to the school building population. School staff and students are secured in the rooms they are currently in and no one is allowed to leave until the situation has been safely resolved or evacuated safely. Most commonly implemented when the potential for violence against members of the school population.

6. What is "Hold and Secure?"

Hold and Secure is a response to a threat in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. This could be a police pursuit, a crime in progress or when information is received that might put the school at risk. Staff, students and visitors are considered to be safe inside the school. A Hold and Secure can move to a Lockdown if situation becomes more serious.

What is "Shelter in Place?"

This response allows the school to continue with the normal school day, but forbids outside activity. A shelter in place order is used when personal safety is considered to be in danger if anyone leaves the school. It is usually associated with an environmental issue where hazardous materials are released into the atmosphere. For example, a chemical spill or gas leak in the immediate vicinity of the school. Shelter in place might also be used in the case of a wild animal in the vicinity of the school (e.g. cougar or bear).

7. What will SD 91 do if an emergency situation occurs while students are in school?

The specific actions taken by school personnel in any emergency situation, both district-wide and at individual schools, will depend on the specifics of the situation. Any action taken would depend on several factors, including the level of threat and the advice or directive of local, provincial, and federal agencies. The safety of students and staff members will be the primary concern in any decision.

9. Can I pick up my child?

Parents will be allowed to pick up their children unless public safety officials have declared that there is some reason why access to the facility is restricted. During any emergency, school personnel will endeavour to maintain a safe and calm environment for children within the school. School will not automatically be canceled in emergency situations because the school may be the safest place for children to be. Although some parents may feel compelled to pick up their children from school at that time; we want to assure them that their children are being looked after. Parents will be informed on when and where they can pick up their children when safe to do so.

10. Who can pick up my children?

Children will not be released to individuals who are not authorized to do so on the student's emergency card or who do not have written parent authorization. Parents and guardians at the start of each school year will complete the emergency contact information. Parents and guardians are encouraged to update the emergency contacts as needed throughout the school year.

11. Should I contact my child directly during an emergency on his cell phone or call the school?

In emergency situations we ask parents to not to call the school as school staff will be assisting students and emergency responders. If school phone lines are busy with parent calls, we risk missing important information from emergency staff. We also ask parents not to contact their children on cell phones as this can interfere with safety protocols. Updates will be given through SD 91 social media and news media when available. During emergency situations we understand the concern from parents and community members and our primary focus will be on keeping our students as safe as possible.

12. What if my child is riding a school bus at the time of a crisis?

The transportation department will be in contact with the District Office for instructions in the event that a crisis occurs while students are in transport. Bus drivers will be informed to avoid driving toward the crisis location. Parents will be informed of the parent-student reunification center location via the school board's emergency messaging system and local media.

13. What about my child's medication?

If your child takes medication regularly, you should make sure that the school has an appropriate amount of additional medication on hand. Talk with your child's principal for more information. In the event of a threat to school safety, emergency personnel will be notified of any specific medical needs.

Welcome to McLeod!

McLeod Families are invited on
Thursday, September 15

**Open House +
Ice Cream Social**
6:00-7:30pm

PAC Meeting
7:00pm

Call 250-567-2267 for more
information or go to Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WLMPAC



Vanderhoof Clippers Speed Skating Club Registration 2022-2023 Season



Summer is over, but there's lots to look forward to!!! Registration for Speed Skating is open!!

For beginner to advanced skaters from age 4 to adult.

Speed Skates available for Rent = low cost, fun and fast winter sport!!

Children must turn 4 on or before June 30th 2022 to participate.

Registration link: <https://icereg.ca/#!/events/vanderhoof-clippers-speed-skating-club-20222023>

Lots of great info about the club at: www.vcssc.ca

For more information, contact Terry Lazaruk at terry.lazaruk@canfor.com,

or feel free to give me a call at 250-570-8444

Ecole W. L. McLeod Elementary School

Skehhodul'eh

RESPONSIBLE INTERNET & TECHNOLOGY USE

The computer system is owned by the school. This Responsible Internet & Technology Use statement helps protect students, staff and the school by clearly stating what use of the computer resources and technology is acceptable and what is not.

- **I will ask permission before using the internet.**
- **I will only look at or delete my own files**
- **I will only use e-mail when my teacher has approved it. The messages I send will be polite and sensible.**
- **I will not use the internet or technology to inappropriately communicate with others (i.e. cyber-bullying, making threats, etc.)**
- **I understand that I must never give my home address or phone number, or arrange to meet someone.**
- **I will not use internet chat.**
- **If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive messages I do not like, I will tell a teacher immediately.**
- **I understand that the school may check my computer files and the internet sites I visit.**
- **I understand that if I deliberately break these rules, I may not be allowed to use the internet or computers.**

The school may exercise its right to monitor the use of the school's computer systems, including access to websites, the interception of e-mail and the deletion of inappropriate materials where it believes unauthorized use of the school's computer system is or may be taking place, or the system is or may be being used for criminal purposes or for storing unauthorized or unlawful text, imagery or sound.

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats will be taken seriously, responded to and investigated.

When is a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment started?

A Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be started by behaviours such as:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/written threats to harm or kill others or self
- Internet threats to harm or kill others or self
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- Bomb threats and fire setting.
- Or similar behaviours

What happens in a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

When a threat making or high risk behaviour is reported to the principal, the principal will activate the protocol and a team appropriate to the situation will be set up. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and the staff, to determine the level of risk and to plan an appropriate response. The team may include people from the community such as RCMP or counsellors.

What are the purposes of a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

The purposes of a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- To begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan to address the emotional and physical needs of the threat maker
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.



Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat related behaviours to the principal. The principal will then activate the initial response.

Can I refuse to be part of the Student Threat Assessment process?

In order to ensure a safe and caring environment a threat assessment needs to be completed. It is important for everyone involved to engage in the process. If there is a reluctance to participate, the process will still be completed.

School District No. 91 Values

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents, and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

Where can I get further information?

Please discuss this information with your children so that they understand the intent. Should you require further clarification, please contact your school principal or Karla Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools at 250-567-2284.

Fair Notice: Violence Threat/Risk Assessment

It is important that all students and staff of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) be allowed to work in an environment free from harm. Threat making behaviour will not be tolerated. All threats and all high risk behaviours will be investigated and acted on accordingly. This may involve other agencies and Ministries including the RCMP. If your child is involved in threat making behaviour you will be contacted. (Code of Conduct Policy 502.1)

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

153 East Connaught St.
Vanderhoof B.C.
Phone: 250-567-2284
Fax: 250-567-4639



School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice



School District No. 91
Phone: 250-567-2284

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Email: dcominceaponyclub@gmail.com
Call: 250-570-8716

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www.canadianponyclub.org



W. L. McLeod Technology Policy

Technology refers to cell phones, IPADs, video games, cameras, etc.

Technology is part of our school in many ways but it must not interfere with our learning, kindness and caring. It is expected that students will follow the discretion of the teachers regarding technology use for learning. Technology that interferes with a student's kindness and caring will be subject to confiscation by an adult.

Students in grades K to 3 are not to bring technology to school.

Grade 4 to 6 students may bring technology to school but:

1. The school takes no responsibility for the technology.
2. The technology must be left in the student's locker during class time unless requested by the teacher for a learning activity.
3. Taking pictures, videotaping and recording is not allowed (including by cell phone).
4. Technology is not to be used during a lockdown.
5. Students must follow the W.L. McLeod Responsible Internet Use Policy.

If a student does not follow the above policy:

1. the technology will be confiscated and given to the principal,
2. the parent/guardian will be asked to come to the school to claim the technology, and
3. the student may not be permitted to bring any technology to school for the remainder of the school year.

Ecole W. L. McLeod Elementary School

Responsible Internet Use

Please complete, sign and return to the school

Student: _____

Grade: _____

Student Agreement

I have read or reviewed the school Rules for Responsible Internet Use and the McLeod Technology Policy. I will use the computer system, the internet and technology in a responsible way and follow these rules at all times.

Student: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Consent for Internet Access

I have read and understood the school rules for responsible internet use and give permission for my child to access the internet. I understand that the school will take all reasonable precautions to ensure students cannot access inappropriate materials. I understand that the school cannot be held responsible for the nature or content of all materials accessed through the internet.

Student: _____

Grade: _____

Parent's consent for web publication of work and photographs

- ☐ I agree that, if selected, my son/daughter's work or photograph may be published on the school web site (<http://wlm.sd91.bc.ca>). I also agree that school photographs that may include my child may be published subject to the school rules that photographs will not clearly identify individuals and that full names will not be used.
- ☐ Please do not publish work or photographs of my child.

Student: _____

Grade: _____



W.L. McLeod Elementary School

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)
P.O. Box 559 Vanderhoof, BC V0J3A0
Phone (250) 567-2267 Fax (250) 567-5791

September 2022/23

Welcome back to another great year at McLeod. It is very important that we have your current contact information on file. Please take a moment and complete the following. Thank you so much!

Student's Name: _____

Student's Address: _____

First number to call in an emergency:

Parent/Guardian Name #1: _____

Relationship to child: _____ (example: Mom/Dad/Aunt/Uncle/Guardian)

Telephone number: _____ Cell number: _____

Work number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Second Number to call in an emergency:

Parent/Guardian Name #2: _____

Relationship to child: _____ (example: Mom/Dad/Aunt/Uncle/Guardian)

Telephone number: _____ Cell number: _____

Work number: _____ E-mail address: _____

Street address: _____

RR # or PO Box # _____ Town: _____

In case we cannot reach you at the above numbers please provide us with an emergency contact. Thank you.

Name of Emergency Contact #1: _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone number: _____ Cell number: _____

Name of Emergency Contact #2: _____ Relationship: _____

Telephone number: _____ Cell number: _____